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CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT [redacted]

[redacted] GD NO [redacted]

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 15 October 1953

SUBJECT VEB Kombinat Otto Grotewohl in Boehlen

25X1 [redacted]

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

DATE OF INFO [redacted]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

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1. The special fuel produced by the gasoline plant of the VEB Kombinat Otto Grotewohl in Boehlen was the medium gasoline mentioned in the production reports of the Kombinat.

2. The only raw material used in Boehlen was low temperature tar which was available in sufficient quantities. In 1953 the same special fuel was scheduled to be produced by the Chemiewerke Leuna of the SAG Auer Mine Halduenger which were to process Austrian crude oil. The plant was assigned a production quota of 5,500 tons of the special gasoline mentioned. The management of the Leuna Plant protested against this quota on the ground that it lacked the technical know-how, but had to comply with the orders of the SCC.

3. The gasoline was produced by a hydrogenation with the help of catalyzers. Hydrogenation of Austrian crude oil in the Leuna Plant was accomplished easily by using the tenfold quantity of catalyzers. The crude oil was at first topped and then the residue was processed. Reactions and contact periods were not modified as compared with the usual methods. The Leuna Plant allegedly had about 100 new catalyzers working on the basis of iron oxyde. Research on these catalyzers was going on in Leuna and Schwarzheide. No information was available on the pressure involved while the temperature was believed to be about 500 degrees of Celsius.

4. The method used in Boehlen is low temperature hydrogenation which involves the conversion of aliphatic to aromatic hydrocarbons. The present annual capacity of the Boehlen plant amounts to 60,000 tons. The [redacted] could be increased to a maximum of 200,000 tons if the production of aviation gasoline were stopped. This would result in a probable output of 170,000 tons of gasoline and an undetermined quantity of power gases as by-products.

25X1 5. [redacted] medium gasoline was used as fuel for jet engines. However, [redacted] no definite evidence for this assumption.
25X1 Information was also lacking on the advantages of this fuel over other types of fuel.

25X1 6. [redacted] Production difficulties were caused by the poor condition of the plant equipment. Since the plants have been operating for 7 years without being renewed, pipe fractures and damages in the high pressure chambers occurred of late.

25X1 7. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] the Boehlen experimental department was directed by the former manager of the
25X1 plant whose name was unknown.

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25X1 8. [redacted] experiments were made in Boehlen for straight-way hydrogenation with a view to increase the capacity of the plant. While these experiments were satisfactory in the laboratory stage, their application to industrial production was still of doubtful value. The Soviet agencies did not influence the development work.

25X1 [redacted] Comment. According to the plan in force at present, Boehlen is scheduled to produce 60,000 tons of medium gasoline in 1953. The only other plant to produce medium gasoline has been the Schwarzheide plant so far, which is scheduled to produce 46,000 tons of medium gasoline in 1953.